

COS SAFETY SHARE

WHAT WILL WE DO TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING HERE?

Job Design Leads to Line-of-Fire Near Miss

What happened?

A crew member was working on the west crane mezzanine deck. After placing a box containing a 59 lb swing/slew brake down on the boom's catwalk, the crew member started walking to grab the second brake. They turned around to place the second brake on the catwalk and saw the first brake roll off the catwalk and fall through a section between the catwalk's toe board and ladder. The brake landed 28ft 8in below on the main deck. Another crew member on the mezzanine deck was within red barricade tape when brake landed 20 ft away.

What went wrong?

The brake box was lifted overhead 6'5" from the mezzanine level onto the boom walkway prior to the prerequisite controls being established.

Why did it happen?

There are gaps in documented process requirements and verification for separating and protecting personnel from objects that have the potential to be dropped or fall from height.

There is no documented procedure (and associated training) that outlines the process steps necessary to achieve protection of personnel from objects that have the potential to be dropped or fall from height, including barrier and barricading requirements, alternative access/ egress routing, zone delineation, zone guidance, all-stop work requirements, etc.

There are gaps in the verification approach that confirms key elements of the permit to work process are standardized and being adhered to. For example, walk down the job and verify controls in the safe work plan are in place, permit users are communicated and understand the hazards being controlled and the permit conditions to be met, and controls in the safe workplan are verified as in place, including pre-requisite controls required to be in place prior to commencement of work.

What areas were identified for improvement?

Re-evaluate the risk assessment to expand design, operating, and verification approach for toeboards, to meet applicable industry standards

Document the procedure and training requirements necessary to achieve adequate protection of all personnel from objects that have the potential to be dropped or fall from height, including barrier and barricading requirements, alternative access/ egress routing, zone delineation, zone guidance, all-stop work requirements etc.

Evaluate the current approach to verifying adherence to key permit to work processes.

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